



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Faithful to the Scriptures
True to the Reformed Faith
Obedient to the Great Commission



Sunday, July 26, 2026
10:30am

Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Free wifi:
CCC Guest >
guest2019

This facility is
equipped with a
hearing
assistance
system. Please
ask a Sound
Technician for a
receiver.

Hymns and
worship songs
are used by
permission.
CCLI # 187771

S - denotes
congregation
Standing

Download the
CCC Simpsonville
app today!



Whether you are a visitor or a member, it is a joy to worship our Lord Jesus Christ with you this morning. Please consider participating in our Discipleship Hour and Community Groups throughout the week as well.

We believe it is right and good for children of all ages to be with the adult community in worship. Please do not hesitate to keep your child with you. However, we do offer Children's Church for 3-5 yr. olds. Those children participating can be dismissed to the children's wing during the song prior to the sermon.

Because we live in a fallen, broken, sinful world, we can come to Sunday morning worship at times with hearts weighed down with burdens, struggles and concerns. It is not God's will that we shoulder these burdens and concerns alone. Each Sunday immediately following the worship service, there are people at the right front of the church who stand ready to listen to your concerns and to pray with you. So, whatever your concern, no matter how big or small, feel free to come, to share and to be prayed for.

Prepare yourself now for the highest calling of the people of God which is the worship of God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Building Attendant for today: Bryan Beeson

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

John 6:66: “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.”

Matthew 5:17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Isaiah 29:13: “...this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me...”

Psalms 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter XXI — Of Religious Worship: “The acceptable way of worshiping the true God is instituted by Himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that He may not be worshiped according to the imaginations and devices of men.”

Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 99: “The law is perfect and binds everyone to full conformity... forbidding all that is contrary to it.”

1 Peter 1:18-19: “...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Mr. John Hubbard
- Dr. Rick Heiser, Ruling Elder

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Psalm 24:1-6

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Song of Praise

Give Us Clean Hands

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees,
Oh, Spirit come make us humble.
We turn our eyes from evil things,
Oh Lord we cast down our idols.

*Chorus: Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another.
Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another.
And oh God, let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face, oh God of Jacob.
And oh God, let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob.*

Repeat entire song

Corporate Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the God whose Word alone is truth.

***All:** Almighty God, we confess that we have often honored You with our lips while our hearts have been far from You. We have trusted in our own traditions, preferences, and righteousness. We have set aside Your commandments for our own convenience. We have added our own rules to your righteousness. Cleanse our hearts, renew our minds, and restore us to sincere obedience to Your Word. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Hearing from the Savior

Assurance of Pardon

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Sacrament of Covenant Baptism

Responding to the Savior

Introduction of New Member

Kennedy Evans, daughter of Tyler & Lauren Evans

Song of Praise

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Three ways to give: the Giving Box, online through the website, or mail to the church at PO Box 80787, Simpsonville, SC 29680

Prayers of the Church

Jegar & Jemima Chinnavan, Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church

§ Song of Preparation*

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

*Parents who desire may bring their 3-5 yr. olds to the children's wing for Children's Church.

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your word to come alive in me; Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity; Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within, may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace; Breath of God show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth, cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 7:1-13

¹ Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ² they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵ And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

⁸ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

⁹ And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' ¹¹ But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)— ¹² then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³ thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"Tradition"

Week after week we proclaim the Bible because we are convinced it is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. That means that it comes to us from God, so it is true in everything that it claims. Therefore, you can trust it with all of your heart and it will not let you down.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Response

The Heart of Worship

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come;
longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart.
I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within through the way things appear; You're looking into my heart.

*Chorus: I'm coming back to the heart of worship,
and it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,
when it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.*

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath.
I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within through the way things appear; You're looking into my heart.
Chorus

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

If you have a need or would like to find out more about the Gospel, the Post Worship Team stands ready to meet with you and pray. Simply make your way to the front right-hand side of the sanctuary after the Benediction, and a team member will be there to meet with you.

Space for Notes:

Discussion Questions for Community Groups & Families:

Series: Good New Breaking #21 · Mark 7:1-13 · “Tradition”

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. Can you think of a church tradition we have that may not be commanded in the Bible?
 - b. What situation are you most likely to act like someone you are not?
3. Where are you most tempted to care more about how you appear spiritually than who you actually are before God (Singleness, marriage, parenting, church, work, etc.)?
4. Can you think of a time when you did the right thing with the wrong heart? What led to that disconnect?
5. What practices help you cultivate honesty and transparency in your walk with Christ?
6. What spiritual disciplines are easiest for you to perform outwardly while your heart is disengaged?
7. How can we lovingly correct legalism in ourselves and others without becoming harsh or prideful?
8. The Corban tradition allowed people to avoid caring for their parents. What modern traditions or habits might keep us from obeying clear biblical commands?
9. How does Jesus free us from both hypocrisy and legalism?

Why Do We Do That?

Covenant Baptism

“Every time we baptize an infant, we bear witness that salvation is from God, that we cannot do any good thing to secure it, that we all enter the Kingdom of heaven therefore as little children, who do not do, but are done for.” (B.B. Warfield)

Our view of Baptism emphasizes and pictures who God is and what God alone can do for His elect. It points us to what God proclaims and promises. Baptism is a sign and seal of God’s covenant promise to His people, directly instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, in which Jesus has directed that water is to be applied, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It signifies the glorious realities of union with Christ, forgiveness of sins by His blood, regeneration by His Holy Spirit; our adoption, our hope of resurrection to everlasting life, our engagement to be wholly and only the Lord’s, and the admission of a person into the visible church. It is a seal from the King that assures us of the authenticity of the gospel and the benefits we receive in Christ. Baptism fulfilled and replaced the OT sign of God’s covenant of grace, which was circumcision, ending the shedding of blood in gospel signs and picturing the circumcision of the heart to which circumcision pointed.

The waters of baptism do not save anyone. Yet it is a picture of what God says He will do for His people in Ezekiel 36:25-27: “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” It is a new and better sign of God’s covenant of grace to be administered to believers and their children as was circumcision (see the Genesis 17 and Acts 2:39 parallels along with Colossians 2:11-12). Biblical accounts as well as the earliest evidence of church history also affirm the inclusion of households in baptism (Acts 16:11-15, 25-34, 2 Cor 1:16). Covenant Baptism (and especially “infant” baptism) beautifully points to the initiative of God’s love. He reached out to us, when we could not reach out to Him. It is thus a perfect picture of sovereign, saving grace. We pray that God will do for our children what is pictured in their baptisms and we call them early and often to faith and repentance.

Thus, at Christ Community Church, we baptize the children of believers, as well as adult professing believers who have not been previously baptized, in accordance with Scripture. Adults, in this way, are recognized as disciples of Jesus Christ through the means of baptism and profession of faith (see Acts 2:38, 8:35-37, Romans 10:9). It is our great joy and privilege from time to time, to hear new Christians profess their trust in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Savior of sinners, as He is offered in the gospel, and to see them receive the mark of membership in the covenant community. And yet, even in their baptisms, the emphasis remains on who God is and what He has done.

Question: Where do you find church membership in the Bible?

Answer: While the words “church membership” is not in the Bible, the practice of “church membership” is blatantly clear.

Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Two questions arise from Hebrews 13:17. If there is no biblical requirement to belong a local church, then to which leaders should an individual Christian obey and submit? The Scriptures clearly command Christians to submit to and honor an elder body (Heb. 13:17, 1 Tim. 5:17). If there is no understanding of local church membership, then to whom are we to submit and obey? Is it anyone with the title “elder” from any church? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED leadership to whom we are accountable!

The second question is this: For whom are the leaders of the church (i.e. Elders) responsible to give an account? The Scriptures clearly command an elder body to care for specific people (See 1 Pet. 5:1-5; also, Acts 20:29-30). Are the Elders at CCC to be held accountable for all the Christians in Simpsonville, SC? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED membership that we are responsible to shepherd and lead. Church shepherding and discipline will not work if local church membership doesn’t exist.

Other evidences for membership include the following:

- Acts 2:37-47 - numerical record of those who have professed Christ and been filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 41) and an acknowledgement that the church was tracking the growth (v. 47)
- Acts 6:1-6 - we see elections take place in order to address a specific problem and accusation.
- Romans 16:1-16 – Example of an awareness of who is a church member.
- Timothy 5:3-16 - In this text we see criteria for who would or would not qualify for Ephesus’ widow care program. The local church in Ephesus is organized, and they are working out a plan. There is a clear distinction of what widows belong to the church.

Obedience to commands in 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12 imply membership being necessary!

“When church is just a place you attend without ever joining, like an ecclesiological buffet, you just might consider whether you’re always leaving whenever your heart begins to be exposed by the Spirit, and the real work is beginning to happen. When you begin to look at these texts it becomes clear that God’s plan for his church is that we would belong to a local covenant community of faith. This is for our own protection and maturation, and for the good of others.” ~Matt Chandler

Local church membership is a question of Biblical obedience, not personal preference.

Is it time you considered church membership? If you have an interest in pursuing membership at CCC, please see one of our elders to discuss this further.

Mark your calendars:

July

- **27-30:** CFaP Camp
- **27:** Boys Bible Study, 4pm

August

- **1:** Youth Back-to-School Bash
- **9:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- **20:** Men’s Night Out, Azteca Mexican Restaurant, 6pm
- **23:** New Comers’ Luncheon, 12noon
- **30:** Volunteer Team Training, 9:30am

More information can be found in the Update, on the app, and/or website.

- * *The first Sunday of each month we take a collection of personal care items for the Center for Community Services. Items can be placed in the wagon located next to the Information Desk in the foyer.*
- * *Members can pick up a monthly giving report summary in the Deacons’ office.*

Church office: 864.967.2815

Staff

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